

JENNIFER McCARTHY

Chief, Regulatory Division New England District

Jennifer McCarthy has worked within the Department of Defense for more than twenty years. After obtaining a bachelor's degree in Marine Science from the University of South Carolina, she became a commissioned officer in the U.S. Navy, serving on active duty for 5 ½ years followed by service in the Naval Reserve. Her work with wetlands began at the state level in 1990 when she worked at the Virginia Marine Resources Commission. She then worked many years at the Norfolk District Corps of Engineers as a Regulatory project manager.

During this time, Ms. McCarthy also earned a Masters of Science degree in Biology/Wetland Ecology from Old Dominion University in Norfolk, Virginia, and was certified as a Professional Wetland Scientist by the Society of Wetland Scientists. After leaving Norfolk District, she spent a brief time working for a wetlands consulting firm and then for the non-profit Elizabeth River Project. Ms. McCarthy returned to work for the Corps' in the St. Paul District as an Enforcement/Compliance Coordinator for Regulatory. She followed this with a position at NRCS Headquarters as the Wetland Conservation (Swampbuster) Program Manager.

Transferring to Corps Headquarters as a Senior Regulatory Program Manager, Ms. McCarthy became the Subject Matter Expert for AG Issues and Coal Mining. She was also the HQ lead for the Delineation Manual Regional Supplements and for WRAP (Wetlands Regulatory Assistance Program) prior to joining New England District as the Chief of the Regulatory Division in April 2009.

As Regulatory Division Chief, Ms. McCarthy oversees one of the most challenging and diverse programs in the Corps, that of regulating work that affects waters and wetlands on private and public land, and balancing environmental protection with necessary development. The New England District Regulatory Division reviews almost 3,000 permit requests a year, conducts compliance inspections and jurisdictional determinations, and resolves noncompliance and enforcement cases. In doing this, Regulatory staff ensure that impacts to aquatic areas are avoided and minimized, to the extent practicable, and mitigated through wetland creation, restoration and preservation.

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